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**CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR DOCTORAL RESEARCHER POSITIONS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TURKU GRADUATE SCHOOL, THE DOCTORAL PROGRAMME OF SOCIAL AND BEHAVIOURAL SCIENCES**

**1. Doctoral programme of social and behavioural sciences**

[The Doctoral Programme of Social and Behavioural Sciences \(DPSoc\)](#) is a wide-ranging doctoral programme of the University of Turku Graduate School. The disciplines of the doctoral programme are contemporary history, East Asian studies, economic sociology, speech-language pathology, philosophy, political science, psychology, social policy, social work and sociology.

**2. Application period and what can be applied for**

The application consists of an electronic form and pdf files attached to it including all required material according to the instructions. **Before sending the application, the applicant must ensure that all required documents are attached as pdf files to the application (see pp. 3-4).** A link to the electronic application forms and the instructions for the pdf appendix files will be published at the website of the [doctoral programme](#). Application can be written in Finnish or English.

During the application period 28<sup>th</sup> August - 15<sup>th</sup> September 2023, you can apply for:

***a) the right to study for a doctoral degree in the Faculty of Social Sciences of the University of Turku from 1 January 2024 onwards***

***b) a fixed-term Doctoral Researcher position under an employment contract***

The position of a Doctoral Researcher is set to begin on 1 January 2024 at the earliest and for the duration of a maximum of four years (up to until 31 December 2027). The positions are intended for full-time doctoral dissertation research. Duties other than those related to doctoral dissertation research, such as teaching duties, must be proportioned so as not to compromise the completion of the doctoral dissertation within the planned schedule. As a rule, up to 5% (a maximum of about 80 hrs per academic year) of the annual working time of the Doctoral Researcher can consist of teaching.

When determining the length of the employment contract, prior funding granted for pursuing a doctoral degree is taken into account. The maximum length for a Doctoral Researcher position is four years. A person already awarded with a doctoral degree cannot be chosen as a Doctoral Researcher under an employment contract.

**The employment contract of a Doctoral researcher requires residence in Finland.**

The salary is based on the salary system of the university's teaching and research staff. It consists of a task-specific salary component and a personal performance salary component. The task-specific salary component of a Doctoral Researcher is at level 2–4. The component based on personal performance is 6–50% of the task-specific salary. The task-specific salary component of an entry-level Doctoral Researcher is typically on level 2,



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in which case the salary range is 2 313 – 3 273 € per month at the beginning of the employment relationship. A probationary period of 6 months applies.

***c) both of the above (a and b)***

Those applicants who are not citizens of an EU/EEA country and who have been granted a right to study for a doctoral degree at the University of Turku in the spring 2023 application round or who are granted a right to study in the autumn 2023 application round may apply for [the Finland Fellowship funding](#) for the year 2024. The funding is applied for by checking the corresponding field on the application form.

### 3. What is expected of you

When applying for a right to study:

- You are required to have completed a relevant Master's degree awarded by a university or a university of applied sciences, or a relevant study programme abroad which in the awarding country gives eligibility for the corresponding level of higher education (Universities Act 558/2009, 37§)
- You must fulfil [the University of Turku language skill requirements](#)
- You are required to fulfil [the prerequisites set by the doctoral programme for granting a right to study](#).

When applying for a fixed-term Doctoral Researcher position under an employment contract:

- You are required to have an active right to study in the doctoral studies of the Faculty of Social Sciences in the University of Turku. **If you have not yet been granted a right to study, you must apply for a right to pursue a doctoral degree in the Faculty of Social Sciences within this call for applications.** A right to study is a prerequisite for an applicant to be chosen for a fixed-term Doctoral Researcher position under an employment contract;
- You are planning to pursue or pursuing your first doctoral degree;
- You have not previously been granted a full-time four-year funding from the Graduate school at the University of Turku for pursuing a doctoral degree.

### 4. How to apply

The right to study for a doctoral degree and/or fixed-term Doctoral Researcher positions are applied for by filling in an electronic form and attaching the required additional documents. [A link to the electronic form will be published on the website of the graduate school](#). The form will be accessible as the application period begins on 28 August 2023 and closes at 11:59 pm (Finnish time) on 15 September 2023.

All of the required attachments must be submitted before the end of the application period. Applications that arrive after the application period has ended will not be processed. The application documents will not be returned to the sender.



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## Description of the application documents

### a) Application for a study right for a doctoral degree at the Faculty of Social Sciences

AND

### b) Application for a fixed-term doctoral researcher position and at the same time application for a study right for a doctoral degree at the Faculty of Social Sciences

*In addition to the electronic form, the following documents must be submitted:*

1. Research plan, max 6 pages (see [instructions](#)).

By attaching the research plan to the application form, the applicant gives permission to check the research plan with Turnitin OriginalityCheck software (a system for electronic plagiarism detection).

2. Curriculum vitae, max 3 pages. A CV includes a list of publications.

Please see the instructions of the Finnish Advisory Board on Research Integrity for writing a CV

<https://www.tenk.fi/en/template-researchers-curriculum-vitae>

3. Motivation letter

Motivation letter is a max two-page-long freeform document, which includes the reasons for applying to doctoral studies and/or for a Doctoral Researcher position in the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Turku.

4. Commitment by a supervisor (file or copy of email message by a professor or a researcher with a doctoral degree working at the University of Turku to confirm that she/he is willing to supervise applicant's dissertation project). Faculty's disciplines and contact information:

<https://www.utu.fi/en/university/faculty-of-social-sciences/units>

**Note: At least one of the named supervisors need to represent applicant's discipline.**

5. Degree certificates and transcript of study records

- a) If you have completed your former degree(s) that make you eligible for doctoral studies at a higher education institution in Finland, you must attach your scanned original degree certificates, transcripts of study records and other educational documents which may be of relevance in the selection to the electronic application form.
- b) If you have completed your former degree(s) that make you eligible for doctoral studies at a higher education institution abroad (i.e. outside of Finland), you must attach the following items to the electronic application form:
  - a. scanned original degree certificates (in the language that the degree was completed in)
  - b. scanned original transcripts of study records (in the language that the degree was completed in)
  - c. scanned other original educational documents which may be of relevance in the student selection and that you are applying based on.

**If the original degree certificates or transcripts of study records are not written in English, Finnish or Swedish, official translations to one of these languages must also be submitted. An official translation here refers to a translation of the educational documents issued by the awarding institution and a translation made by an authorised translator. A transcript in English can be**



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replaced by a Diploma Supplement (DS) awarded by a European educational institution, provided that it contains the information about completed courses and other study attainments.

6. Verification of language proficiency

The University of Turku follows the Rector's decision (15 Aug 2019) on the means of verifying one's language proficiency. [See the language requirements on the webpage of the university's graduate school.](#)

**If the applicant is required to prove their language proficiency with a language test, a scanned certificate of a completed language test must be attached to the application**

7. Copy of a valid passport

Attach a copy of your valid passport or official identification card with photo and information on citizenship. If you have a Finnish personal identity code and you have entered it on the application form, you do not need to attach a copy of your passport.

**c) Application for fixed-term doctoral researcher position**

*In addition to the electronic form, the following documents must be submitted:*

1. Research plan, max 6 pages (see [instructions](#))

By attaching the research plan to the application form, the applicant gives permission to check the research plan with Turnitin OriginalityCheck software (a system for electronic plagiarism detection).

2. Curriculum vitae, max 3 pages. A CV includes a list of publications.

Please see the instructions of Academy of Finland for writing a CV <https://www.tenk.fi/en/template-researchers-curriculum-vitae>

3. Transcript of study records (i.e. doctoral studies)

The applicant must deliver all required attachments by the end of the application period. Late applications will not be processed.

**5. Assessment of applications**

The board of the doctoral programme will process the applications and invite external experts to evaluate them. The applications are assessed according to the following criteria, where relevant:

- Quality of the research plan (general quality, feasibility, relation to doctoral programme research profile). The research plans attached to the applications may be checked with the Turnitin OriginalityCheck plagiarism detection software in accordance with the University of Turku quality assurance system
- Success in previous studies (master's thesis grade and other studies)
- Progress in studies towards a doctoral degree (publications, conference presentations, activity in scientific associations, scientific awards, amount of studies in study register, studying speed, etc.).

In the evaluation, the multidisciplinary nature of the doctoral programme will be taken into consideration, and therefore the aim to cover all the different disciplines in the doctoral programme may have an effect on final selection. The board of the doctoral programme's proposal is based on the evaluations of the external experts.



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Applicants ranked on the highest levels will be proposed to receive funded doctoral training positions for the applied or shorter periods.

## 6. Decision-making

The Heads of the departments of the Faculty of Social Sciences decide on recruitment of the applicants on a Doctoral Researcher positions, based on the proposal of the board of the Doctoral programme. All applicants will be personally informed on the decisions. [The names of persons selected for funded positions will also be published online at website of the doctoral programme](#) by the end of November 2023.

The Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences decides on granting the right to study for a doctoral degree, based on the proposal of the board of the doctoral programme. Decisions on the applications for the right to pursue a doctoral degree in the Faculty of Social Sciences are made by the end of November 2023. All applicants will be personally informed on the decisions. Those who are dissatisfied with the selection of students for degree may make an appeal for rectification from the Faculty of Social Sciences within 14 days of the results being published. Appeal for rectification should be addressed to the Faculty of Social Sciences and it should be sent to the following address: Faculty of Social Sciences, FI-20014 University of Turku, Finland.

An admitted applicant has to notify the University of Turku of their acceptance of the study place by 3:00 pm (UTC +2) on 15 December 2023 according to the instructions given in the admission notification. If the admitted applicant does not give the notification by the end of the allotted time period mentioned above, the applicant forfeits the study place. A person admitted to more than one university or polytechnic degree programme only notifies the one educational institution at which they choose to accept the study place. Notification, i.e. accepting a study place, is binding and may not be cancelled or changed later.

According to Finnish university legislation, an applicant may accept only one study place leading to a higher education degree in Finland during one academic term (autumn term 1 Aug – 31 Dec or spring term 1 Jan – 31 Jul). This rule applies to all higher education, i.e. Bachelor's and Master's level degrees awarded by Finnish universities of applied sciences, Bachelor's and Master's degrees awarded by Finnish universities, and Licentiate and Doctoral degrees awarded by Finnish universities. This regulation is not applied to study rights received in transfer student selections, from the Åland University of Applied Sciences, from the Police University College, and from institutions of higher education outside Finland.

The applicants who have completed their prior degree in a country other than Finland and who are granted a study right in this call, need to deliver either the original degree certificates or certified copies of the original degree certificates and their translations to the University of Turku, as instructed in the admission notification, on 3 March 2024 at the latest. If the admitted applicant does not deliver the required certificates by the deadline, they forfeit the study right. [Instructions on delivering certificates and country-specific requirements.](#)

## 7. Further information

Coordinator: Vesa Rautio, [vesa.rautio@utu.fi](mailto:vesa.rautio@utu.fi) Tel. +358 (0)50 416 8345